



COON RAPIDS *Connection*

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New City Website

The City of Coon Rapids is pleased to unveil a new website, designed to serve you better! The new website has a fresh modern look and offers new tools and functionality, making it easier to find information and resources of interest to you. The websites that have been re-designed include www.coonrapidsmn.gov, www.coonrapidsicecenter.com, www.coonrapidsciviccenter.com and the newly added www.ctncoonrapids.com (for the cable television department.)

Some of the features of the new website include:

- Responsive design, which means the screen adapts to phones, tablets and computers
- A better search function
- An event calendar
- A newsflash area so visitors can read about the most current news and information in the city
- Language translation tool
- More videos for multi-media viewing enjoyment
- Easy online form options that allow you to send requests for facility reservations
- A tools area, which allows for RSS, emailing, social media sharing and printing of pages in an easy way
- More photo/graphic areas and photo galleries to showcase items in a visually pleasing way
- And more great features!

Turn to page 6 to learn more about the new website features and learn about the City's NEW maintenance request system.



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coonrapidsmn.gov**
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Fire Station Open House Events

Come learn about fire prevention at the annual Coon Rapids Fire Department Open House events on Saturday, October 10. The events are part of Fire Prevention Week (October 5-11), a time when firefighters focus on fire prevention and share safety messages. Firefighters visit schools to give educational presentations and the fire department hosts open house

events for the community. This year's safety message is "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep, Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm."



Open House Event Schedule:

Saturday, October 10

10 a.m. – Noon

Fire station 1 - 1460 Egret Blvd. Station tours, vehicle roll-over simulator (learn how seat belts save lives!), kitchen fire demonstration and DJ

Fire station 2 - 1199 121st Ave. Station tours and Connexus Energy electrical safety demonstration

Fire station 3 - 2831 113th Ave. Station tours and medical helicopter

All stations will have cookies, coffee, juice and balloons as well. We hope to see you there!



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What a beautiful summer! Lots of sun and enough rain to keep everyone busy mowing. It is hard to believe it is time for football, sweatshirts, homecoming and fall; all of those things that help us appreciate living in this beautiful area.

We have a unique gift here in Coon Rapids; although we are the 12th largest city in the state of Minnesota, you can find a sense of closeness normally only found in small towns. When our Little League teams have a great year (like this year), the community rallies behind them, and we experience civic pride many towns long for.

No place is perfect; but we have a lot of really great things to be proud of in Coon Rapids. We are enjoying the lowest crime rate since 1969; we have some amazing parks and trails; we enjoy great shopping, schools and industry; our public safety is second to none, and we have a nationally ranked hospital that has been investing millions of dollars in our community, with the latest addition being the incredible Mother-Baby Center. We, as residents, own a beautiful top ranked golf course, which features a magnificent facility for celebrating special occasions or enjoying a nice lunch or dinner. In fact, with the completion of the "golfer bar" next month, you will be able to grab a breakfast sandwich and

beverage out on the north deck.

We have some work ahead of us and your City Council recognizes that. Our Port Riverwalk, the old Coon Rapids Shopping Center area, needs development. The housing market is on the upswing and as the last of the old buildings are razed, it is becoming a more desirable and marketable area. Although the City is making a significant investment in this area, given the width and breadth of our tax base, it is not particularly impactful to individual taxpayers. This is not meant to minimize the significance and cost of this redevelopment, however, it is more important to look at the long term future of this area and develop the best possible project for our community. You only get one chance to do it right, and this represents a significant opportunity.

If you look for the good, you will find it abundantly here. When you think about Coon Rapids, your community, look for the positives. When you look for the good in people and places, you will not be disappointed. When you talk to others about your town, tell them about the things you love here; it is a significant part of attracting new residents.

Mayor Jerry Koch

Meet the New City Manager



Matt Stemwedel is the new City Manager for the City of Coon Rapids, effective June 17, 2015. Stemwedel is the former Assistant City Manager for the City of Coon Rapids and has served as the Assistant to the City Manager in the City of Woodbury. Stemwedel replaces Steve Gatlin, former City Manager who retired in May. Stemwedel is a native of the Twin Cities, growing up in St. Paul Park. He

has a master's degree in public policy from the University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs. The City Manager works with the City Council to execute policies and direct the day-to-day operations of the City.

Quick Facts about Matt

- **Family** – Married to wife Jackie, two children Owen and Addy
- **Favorite sport** – Hockey
- **Favorite hobby** – Being at "the lake," wherever that happens to be
- **What he likes about City government** – I enjoy the variety of issues/topics involved with local government and that our City services have an impact on the everyday quality of life for all who live and work in Coon Rapids.
- **What he likes best about Coon Rapids** – I like that Coon Rapids has become a large suburb with many amenities while retaining its small town character. The passion many people have for this community is very impressive.

City Meetings CALENDAR

(All meetings held at the Coon Rapids City Center unless otherwise noted.)

City Council Meetings

October 6 & 20, November 4 & 17, December 1 & 15
7:00 p.m.

Arts Commission

October 20, November 17, December 15 • 6:00 p.m.

Board of Adjustment and Appeals

October 1, November 5, December 3 • 6:30 p.m.

Historical Commission

October 15, November 19, December 17 • 7:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

October 12, November 9, December 14 • 6:30 p.m.
Public Works Garage

Planning Commission

October 15, November 19, December 17 • 6:30 p.m.

Safety Commission

November 12 • 7:15 p.m.

Sustainability Commission

October 15, November 19, December 17 • 6:30 p.m.

City offices will be closed:

November 11 (Veterans Day)
November 26, 27 (Thanksgiving)
December 24, 25 (Christmas)

Schedule subject to change. Contact the staff liaison at 763-755-2880 to confirm.

Public notices are published in the City's official newspaper, The Anoka County UnionHerald, and on the website: www.coonrapidsmn.gov

2015 COON RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL



Mayor

Jerry Koch

763-767-1811

jkoch@coonrapidsmn.gov

COUNCILMEMBERS



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At Large

Steve Wells

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Park Bond Project Updates

Sand Creek Park- 1008 Northdale Boulevard

Grading work is complete and fence posts and other ballfield improvements are underway at Sand Creek Park. Seeding of the athletic turf began at the end of the summer and soon roadways, trails and parking lot paving will begin. Park amenities such as the playgrounds, skate park and buildings will be installed in 2016.

Complete reconstruction of the park will bring the complex up to modern athletic field standards. The improvements include re-arranged parking and fields, a new concession building, new football/lacrosse fields, enhanced trails with connections to surrounding neighborhoods, new playground areas, a hockey rink with open skate areas and energy efficient lighting.

The entrance to Sand Creek Park will be relocated to Redwood Street and Northdale Boulevard. Northdale Boulevard will be upgraded to include turn lanes and a traffic signal at the intersection of Redwood and Northdale to allow for improved pedestrian safety and traffic flow in and out of the park. Construction of the roadway and intersection will occur in 2016.

Sand Creek Park is expected to be open for use in the spring of 2017. Funding for the Sand Creek Park improvements is possible thanks to a Park Bond approved by voters in 2013.

Riverview Park - 2420 105th Avenue

This park has been completely renovated. A few finishing items remain and will be completed before winter. The park has new playground equipment, a warming house, picnic shelter, tennis court, half-court basketball, skate park and expanded parking

areas. New trails are complete and most turf areas are newly seeded. The ball fields at the park won't be ready until spring 2016 due to new turf establishment. The renovation was possible thanks to a Park Bond approved by voters in 2013.

Trail Updates

Portions of the **Coon Rapids Boulevard Trail**, on the south side of the road from Eldorado Street to Hanson Boulevard, will be re-paved this fall. Construction will begin in September and the project will be completed by the end of October.

Construction of the **85th Avenue Trail** will take place next year. Due to logistical challenges, this project has been moved to 2016 and will not be completed in 2015 as reported in the spring City newsletter. The trail will connect Springbrook Nature Center with Kennedy Park. Users will be able to navigate through the surrounding neighborhoods to reach the trails into Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park.



Riverview Park - 2420 105th Avenue

Other Park and Trail Project Updates

Renovations to the City-owned section of **Hoover Park** (behind Hoover Elementary School) have been taking place over the summer. The parking lot off South Heights Drive has been repaved. Eagle Scouts are installing a rain garden. The worn out tennis court has been removed as well as the track. The park will have more green space and will feature a half mile walking trail that connects the neighborhood to Rockslide Park.

Construction is complete on the **Wilderness Park Trail**, which connects the trail from 121st Avenue by Fire Station 2 to Avocet & Main Street. A \$65,000 grant from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) helped to fund the trail.

Portions of trails have been re-surfaced at **Lions Coon Creek Park** (1664 119th Avenue), **Nelson Park** (209 110th Avenue) and **Parkside Park** (700 99th Avenue) as part of regular maintenance.

Woodview neighborhood park (11540 Olive Street) will be renovated in 2016.

2016 Park Bond Improvements

Mason, Delta, Pheasant Ridge and Woodcrest Parks will be renovated in 2016. Concept plans were approved by the City Council at the August 18 meeting. Final plans, which incorporate comments from a public open house held earlier this year and the Parks and Recreation Commission, will now be developed. Design is expected to be complete by the end of the year and construction is expected to begin spring 2016.

Building a Walkable Community: Millennials

"Millennials" – the group of people ages 18-34 – make up about 80 million Americans. Known for their love of technology, this group of adults has gained attention as cities evolve and plan for the future. Several polls, including one recently conducted by the National Association of Realtors and the Transportation Research and Education Center at Portland State University* finds that millennials prefer walking over driving by a substantially wider margin than any other generation. The poll also found that millennials prefer living in attached housing, living within walking distance of restaurants and they like to have a short commute. Expanded public transportation options such as trains, buses and walking and biking are all alternatives to driving that are desirable to this age group.

Why do cities such as Coon Rapids care about this trend? As our city redevelops and plans for the future, we need to keep an eye on the next generation

of potential residents as well as pay attention to the needs of those who are already living here. If the next generation of potential residents is showing a desire for a "walkable" community – an area where people can live, work and walk to shopping and restaurants all nearby – then City officials need to pay attention. Without understanding the desires and needs of future generations, cities could lose out on providing well-rounded living options for prospective residents to enjoy.

The City of Coon Rapids continues to look at options that allow for "walkability" as part of its master planning. With the assistance of a voter approved Park Bond passed in 2013, the City is focusing on its trail system, with the first goal of building out the regional trail system, which can get you to most areas of the city. Once the regional trails are completed, the focus will then shift to constructing connections to and from these regional trails into neighborhoods,

parks, schools, government facilities and business areas. More trails, sidewalks and connections will mean more transportation options for everyone to enjoy. Whether you want to walk from your home to a neighborhood restaurant or park, it will get easier and easier as this trail system is built out in the coming years. The City looks to incorporate sidewalk and trail improvements/connections with every opportunity, whether it is a park project, street reconstruction project or new development. The City believes these enhancements, along with well-designed housing projects and expanded transportation opportunities will continue to position Coon Rapids to be a sought-after community, one that appeals to all generations.

**Results were released July 28, 2015 by the National Association of Realtors and the Transportation Research and Education Center at Portland State University.*

Do Not Place “Free” Items on the Curb

It has become a common site in our city; items labeled as “free” being left near the curb. This practice is not allowed per city code 8-109. If you have items in front of your home labeled as “free” you could receive a citation which includes a fine.

If you are looking for ways to recycle or dispose of items, several resources are available at www.AnokaCounty.us/Recycle. Click on “Search the Recycling and Disposal Directory.” This tool offers a complete listing of household items you may want to recycle or donate and then lists organizations that will accept the goods.



Helpful Parking Information

The City often receives questions regarding the rules for parking on private property in residential areas. City Code Chapters 11-602.2(7), 11-603.2(7) and 12-306(19) require all vehicles be parked on a driveway or other continuous surface made of concrete, asphalt or pavers in front and side yards. Parking on grass, dirt or rock in the front and side yards is not allowed. This applies to all vehicle types: cars, trucks, trailers, boats, campers, RVs, snowmobiles, etc. There are some exceptions to these rules for properties along the Mississippi River with shoreline as the rear lot line.

Failure to park vehicles appropriately may result in a citation which includes a fine. We all play a part in keeping our city looking its best. You can contact the City at 763-767-6470 if you have any questions.



Planning for 2016 Street Reconstruction

The City of Coon Rapids is planning to mill and overlay or reconstruct nearly 11 miles of streets in 2016 as part of its aggressive street maintenance program. These streets are all on the City’s State Aid system, which means they are typically higher volume collector streets. These roads may cause more concerns or have more impacts than a standard residential street. The plans for 2016 include:

Project 16-1

- Evergreen Boulevard from 85th Avenue to 93rd Avenue (reconstruction)
- 90th Avenue from Evergreen Boulevard to Springbrook Drive (reconstruction)
- 93rd Avenue from Evergreen Boulevard to Coon Rapids Boulevard (mill & overlay)
- Evergreen Boulevard from 93rd Avenue to cul-de-sac (mill & overlay)

Project 16-2

- Mississippi Boulevard from Hanson Boulevard to 111th Avenue (reconstruction)
- Mississippi Boulevard from 111th Avenue to Coon Rapids Boulevard (mill & overlay)

Project 16-3

- Crooked Lake Boulevard from 127th Circle to 133rd Avenue (reconstruction)
- 128th Avenue from Crooked Lake Boulevard to Coon Creek Boulevard (mill & overlay)
- Mississippi Drive from Round Lake Boulevard to Pheasant Ridge Drive (reconstruction)
- Round Lake Boulevard from Mississippi Drive to 115th Avenue (mill & overlay)
- Pheasant Ridge Drive from Mississippi

Drive to Coon Rapids Boulevard (mill & overlay)

- Crooked Lake Boulevard from south of 123rd Avenue to north of Northdale Boulevard (mill & overlay)
- 131st Avenue from Crooked Lake Boulevard to Coon Creek Boulevard (reconstruction)
- Wedgewood Drive from Main Street to Round Lake Boulevard (reconstruction)
- Shenandoah Boulevard from north of 121st Lane to south of 124th Lane (mill & overlay)

Project 16-4

- 113th Avenue from Foley Boulevard to Northdale Boulevard (reconstruction)
- Dogwood Street from Northdale Boulevard to 115th Avenue (reconstruction)
- 115th Avenue from Dogwood Street to University Avenue (reconstruction)
- Egret Boulevard from Kumquat Street to University Avenue (reconstruction)
- 101st Avenue from Foley Boulevard to University Avenue (mill & overlay)
- Xeon Street from 114th Avenue to Northdale Boulevard (mill & overlay)

Many of the roads listed above are anywhere from 24-47 years old. The City has 220 miles of streets in all. More than 100 miles of streets have been repaired since 1994 as part of the street reconstruction program. Additional information will be sent out this fall to property owners that reside or conduct business along these routes. Please contact the Engineering Department at 763-767-6479 if you have any immediate concerns or would like additional preliminary information.

Historically Low Crime Rate

Coon Rapids continues to see a decrease in its overall crime rate. According to data from the 2014 Uniform Crime Report, crime in Coon Rapids is at its lowest point since 1969. 2014 statistics show another four percent decline in the crime rate from 2013. The number of crimes committed is down in most categories for Part 1 crimes (detailed at right). In particular, larceny (theft) is at a historic low point. Theft from vehicles is the most common type of crime in Coon Rapids and police are pleased to see the statistics continue to go down. The city’s robbery statistics were higher than our historical average due primarily to an increase in shoplifting incidents evolving into physical confrontations with store security. The police department is working directly with retailers to address procedures linked to this trend.

Police Chief Brad Wise says, “Public awareness and community partnerships are key components to our policing efforts. Thanks to an engaged community, pro-active policing and everyone working together, we can continue to be proud of the safety of our community. I want everyone to know that we value the public helping us be the “eyes” and “ears” of the community. Never be afraid to call 911 if you see suspicious activity. When we all work together, we keep our community safe.”

The Uniform Crime Report, produced by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, is a reporting tool that is used to track crime around the state. The data is also submitted

to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program, to allow for crime rate comparisons nationwide.

Breakdown of the Data

The following data shows Part 1 crime statistics for 2014 as compared to 2013, 2012 and 2011.

(Chart shows actual number of offenses in each category).

Crime	2014	2013	2012	2011
Murder	0	0	0	2
Rape	25	31	14	37
Robbery	25	15	16	16
Aggravated Assault	33	48	42	57
Burglary	182	183	194	254
Larceny (theft)	1311	1530	1663	2361
Motor Vehicle Theft	48	53	60	57
Arson	6	7	10	13

Why Are Building Permits Required?

Permits are a useful tool to help protect you and your assets. Building permits are required to ensure structures and modifications to structures are built to code and that contractors have performed the work in a proper manner. City inspections related to building permits ensure another set of “eyes” has looked at the work that was done and helps to ensure your property is safe.

Not only do permits preserve property value over time, they also serve as a way for cities to protect the community against natural disasters that may occur. In conjunction with this, insurance providers want to know how well cities enforce state codes in order to set premiums. A recent Insurance Services Office (ISO) review gave the City of Coon Rapids a very favorable rating. Evaluations are rated on a scale of 1-10, with 1 representing an excellent commitment to building code enforcement. Coon Rapids received a rating of 4 out of 10, with the average US city earning a 6 out of 10. This rating is a strong sign of the City of Coon Rapids’ commitment to keeping residents safe and a useful reminder of why permits play a vital role in our community.



City Wins GreenStep Cities Award

The City of Coon Rapids has been recognized as a Minnesota GreenStep City and received a Step 2 block award at the recent League of Minnesota Cities Conference in June. The honor is an advancement as part of the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program.

“This recognition shows community members and other cities across Minnesota that the City of Coon Rapids is taking great steps in the direction of energy and resource conservation and innovation,” says Colleen Sinclair, the Minnesota GreenStep Cities Coordinator for the City of Coon Rapids.

Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a challenge, assistance, and recognition program. As one of 83 participating cities, the City of Coon Rapids is helping to lead the way in sustainability across the state of Minnesota. The City of Coon Rapids has worked hard to implement best practices in order to fulfill its sustainability goals. Actions that are taken within the program focus on cost savings, energy use reduction, and the encouragement of civic innovation. You can learn more about Coon Rapids’ efforts at http://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/cityInfo.cfm?ctu_code=2393628.



New HD Channel & Programming Guide

CTN’s award-winning programming recently got an upgrade on xfinity (Comcast) cable television. CTN community programming can now be seen in high definition on Channel 859. Previously, our programming could only be found in standard definition on Channel 15.

In addition to sporting events, concerts and parades, shows broadcast in HD include CTN News, Sportsnight and Community CloseUp.

Another new benefit: you can now easily find out when your favorite CTN shows are airing by pushing the guide button on your remote control. Comcast added most CTN channels to the programming guide in August.

CTN Earns National Recognition

CTN has once again been honored nationally by the Alliance for Community Media.

Sportsnight, which airs weekly during the high school sports seasons, received the first-place award in the Entertainment & Arts professional category in the annual Hometown Media Awards. Also, CTN was awarded an honorable mention in the Overall Excellence in Governmental Access category. The 15 minute composite included highlights from various CTN programs produced in 2014.

The awards were handed out at the Alliance for Community Media’s annual conference August 13 in Pasadena, California.

CTN Has New Name

CTN Studios, the Coon Rapids Community cable television station is now named CTN – Coon Rapids Community Television Network. Same great programming, now a new name! CTN is your source for community news, sports and other special event programming!



Hanson Crossing Concerns Bring Lawmakers to Coon Rapids

Several members of the Minnesota House Capital Investment Committee stopped in Coon Rapids on August 13 to learn about problems with the Hanson Boulevard railroad crossing. Legislators listened to a presentation by several local officials, including public safety experts, who discussed the challenges of blocked railroad crossings and “staged” trains. Blocked railroad crossings are having a negative effect on emergency response times. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway “stages” trains between the Hanson Boulevard railroad crossing and the Crooked Lake Boulevard railroad crossing while waiting for clearance into nearby Northtown Yard. The practice of staging trains often blocks crossings for 6-8 minutes at a time (best case scenario) or up to 25+ minutes.

Both Anoka County and the City of Coon Rapids are in favor of an overpass (grade separation) at this crossing to secure a reliable route for emergency response vehicles and

the driving public. The City and County are working with the State to secure funding in the bonding bill during the 2016 legislative session. The Minnesota Department of Transportation has ranked the Hanson Boulevard railroad crossing as the number one funding priority in the 2016 legislative session along with rail improvements in Moorhead and Red Wing – Sturgeon Lake Road at Prairie Island.



New city website continued from page 1

Here is an explanation of some of the new graphic icons and tools on the new City website and what they mean.



Separate websites

The colorful icons listed above appear within the "Mega Menu" on the website (shown on computers or tablets) which showcase four highly visited topic areas within the main City website. By clicking on the color button, you will travel to a secondary website, within the main City website. These websites have tailored information for each subject area.

Tools and New Features

	Map It – This NEW GIS mapping program features interactive maps and apps for our most popular/most requested mapping items - Parks & Trails, Zoning, Street Lights, Street Reconstruction, Voting Locations and Future Land Use. More maps will be added as they become part of the new system.
	Job Listings – View City of Coon Rapids job opportunities easily by clicking on this icon!

	Meeting Agendas – Click on this graphic icon to get to the City's page about meeting agendas and minutes from meetings.
	Online Payment Options – Click on this icon to get to a page that lists the various ways you can pay for things in the city (utility billing, parking tickets, dog license fees and more)
	Notify Me – This new feature allows users to sign up for news items, calendar items, emergency alerts and more. Emails will be sent directly to the user's email address.
	Business Directory – Located within the Economic Development website, this feature lists all of the businesses in Coon Rapids. If a business isn't listed, business owners can email the City to make sure they are listed in the directory.
	Business Visit – Located within the Economic Development website, this graphic link takes you to an online form where you can fill out the information and submit it to City staff to request a visit to your business.
	Reserve a Facility – Located within the Parks & Recreation website, use this icon to find the facilities available for rent. Fill out an online form to send your request to City staff to see if the space is available.
	Park Bond Updates – Also located within the Parks & Recreation website, click on this icon to see the latest information about park bond renovations. The Park Bond, approved by voters in 2013, has provided \$17.3 million in funding to renovate several parks and expand the City's trail system.
	FAQ's – You will find this icon within several areas of the City websites, which will explain several frequently asked questions about a variety of topics.

Coming in 2016:

	Online Recreation Sign-up – New for 2016, visitors will be able to sign up and pay for recreation classes and other activities online.
	Mobile App – Also in 2016, the City of Coon Rapids will have its own app available for download with iPhone and Android devices. The app will allow easy access to all of your favorite features within the City of Coon Rapids website on your mobile device. Push notifications will also be available through this system.

If you have questions or comments about the new website, please contact Stephanie Ring, Communications & Marketing Coordinator at sring@coonrapidsmn.gov or 763-767-6582.

NEW Request System

	The City of Coon Rapids is no longer using SeeClickFix, the software program formerly used to report repair issues.
	Report It - Residents should use the Coon Rapids Report It system instead. This feature allows you to report city maintenance/public works issues 24 hours a day. You can submit information and a photo with your phone or computer. This program is designed for non-urgent issues. If you have a need that requires immediate attention or police response, please call 911. Our staff responds to requests during regular business hours. If the report comes in on a holiday, weekend or after-hours, it will be read on the next business day.

2016 Proposed City Budget

The City Council will discuss the preliminary budget at the September 15 City Council meeting. Final approval of the budget and levy will take place after a public meeting held in December. Property owners will receive a notice of the hearing and the property tax impacts in November. The preliminary levy can be reduced at that time but not increased.

The 2016 Budget assumes continued levels of service with some additional enhancements. The Park Improvement Fund includes \$2.6 million for continued improvements to four parks as authorized by voters in 2013. Park and trail improvements are also included at \$300,000. Other budget highlights include continued aggressive street maintenance, capital equipment replacement as well as continued emphasis on neighborhood reinvestment initiatives.

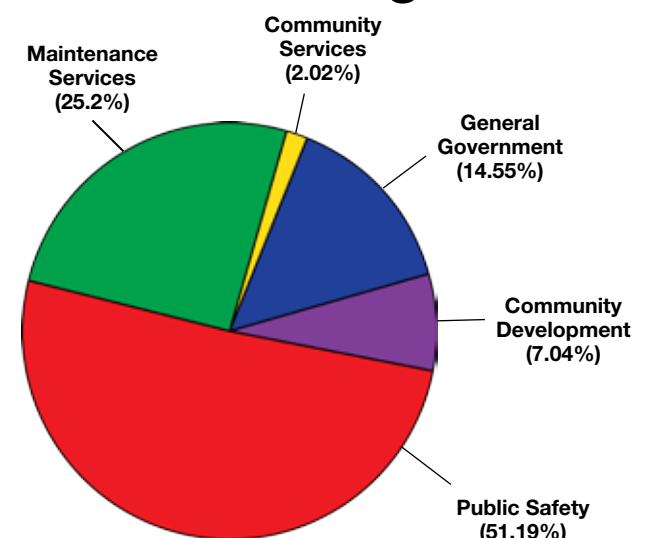
The proposed 2016 City tax levy is \$24,981,319 as compared to \$24,260,690 in 2015.

An estimated impact on benchmark homes is as follows:

	Market Value		City Taxes	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
Home 1	98,600	97,300	311	308
Home 2	144,000	150,100	530	566
Home 3	191,300	187,700	759	749
Home 4	204,500	205,000	823	833
Home 5	277,600	273,100	1,176	1,165
Home 6	375,500	377,600	1,648	1,675

The entire 2016 proposed budget can be viewed on the City's website as well as other information about the budget: www.coonrapidsmn.gov

2016 Budget



Don't Dump Leaves in Parks

When you're raking this fall, be sure to dispose of your leaves properly. It is against city code to dump leaves on City-owned land including right of ways, parks and other property.

Leaves should be mulched, taken to the Anoka County Compost Site or disposed of by your trash hauler as part of yard waste.



Street Sweeping

City crews will be out sweeping streets in September, October and November.

Please keep all leaves, grass clippings, basketball hoops, trash & recycling cans and other items & debris out of the streets. Thanks for your help!

Fall Cleaning: Pull the Tree Seedlings Now

by Tom Schibilla, City Forester

As you are raking the fall leaves and preparing your yard for winter, it's a great time to remove the "volunteer trees." What are the "volunteer trees" you ask? They're the ones you didn't plant and don't want to grow in the most peculiar places. Thanks to the wind, birds, squirrels and the natural cycle of trees dropping their seeds, these "volunteer trees" often grow in-between sidewalk cracks, in flower beds, within existing shrubs and sometimes even in the cracks of your home's foundation which can lead to big problems later on. Many varieties of Maples, Elms and other tree species are famous for sprouting up in a variety of places where they are not wanted.



Pull tree seedlings while they're still small and manageable

What You Can Do

- Pull the tree seedlings as soon as you see them. If you leave them to grow, it will only become harder to get them out of the ground.
- When you pull out the seedling, make sure you get all of the root. Many trees can continue to grow with even the slightest bit of root left in the ground.
- If the trees are too large to pull out and need to be cut with a saw, make sure to chemically treat the stump so that they do not re-sprout. If you do not want to use chemicals, cover the stump with a coffee can or small bag which will also prevent it from re-sprouting.

Sometimes the City receives calls about what is allowed as it relates to trimming a neighbor's tree. This issue is really a civil matter and should be discussed between the property owners. The City does not have a specific ordinance related to trees and property lines. The advice we do tell people - if your neighbor has a tree hanging in your yard or over your fence, you can trim the tree at your own expense, up to the property line but not past it.

Your Lawn Can Prevent Water Pollution

Your lawn and pet care impacts our local waters!

Dirt, bacteria in pet waste, excess fertilizer and herbicides, and clippings and leaves from your lawn can all pollute the water running down your driveway into the street storm drain and into our ponds, creeks and Mississippi River.

Even in winter, salt use adds chlorides to the waterways!

All of this is harmful for aquatic life and the health of our waters.

The City and Coon Creek Watershed District are awaiting final approval by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of our Coon Creek Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) implementation plan. Once approved, the two agencies will collaborate on best practices to achieve specific targets for different water bodies in order to meet Clean Water Act standards. New rain gardens in Coon Rapids and new construction standards are steps already being taken to meet Clean Water standards, but there's more to do.

We need your help to prevent pollution and meet these standards!

- Keep grass clippings and leaves off the street and all paved areas. Leave them on your lawn or take to a county compost site.
- Only water your lawn when your footprints show, when the grass doesn't bounce back.
- Aerate your lawn with a core aerator by October so water can reach the roots easily.
- If you plan to fertilize, first test your soil to know what you need (<http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/>) and wait until you have aerated.
- Let your pool or hot tub sit for 3-4 days to de-chlorinate before draining it to your lawn.
- Pet waste contains a lot of bacteria so dispose of it properly, year-round.
- During the winter, use sand for traction rather than salt and sweep up the excess to re-use.
- For other winter salt alternatives: <http://moourl.com/cleanwatertip8>

This information provided by Coon Creek Watershed District, 763-755-0975 or www.cooncreekwd.org



Winter Parking Ban Starts November 1

A reminder that the winter parking ban is in effect in the City of Coon Rapids beginning November 1. Vehicles cannot be parked on a public street:

- Between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. between November 1 and April 1; or
- Anytime there is a snowfall with three or more inches accumulated on the ground, except where the street has been plowed from curb to curb.

Vehicles in violation will be issued a ticket and may be towed. Thanks for your cooperation!

Snowplow Hotline:

Get updated snowplowing information this winter by calling 763-755-2880, menu option 3. New messages are recorded after snow events of three inches or more. Information is also posted on the City's Facebook page.

Modern Kitchen Makeover

Marshall and Diane Hoff have lived in their 1985 split level home for 30 years. Over the years, they have worked on several remodeling projects and 2015 proved to be the year to tackle the kitchen! A complete redesign of the layout provided more storage space. Some walls were relocated or shortened to accommodate the new layout. Custom knotty alder cabinets, granite countertops and high grade tile back splash complete the kitchen space. A new window in the dining area and engineered wood flooring throughout the living space completed their remodel. The Hoff's used the Home for Generations II program earlier this year to help make their kitchen remodeling dreams come true.

The Home for Generations II program at a glance:

Maximum Grant: \$5,000

Minimum Project Amount: \$35,000

Rebate: 50% of building permit fees

Financing: 4.5% fixed up to \$50,000

Architectural Consultation: \$25 co-pay

Income Limit: None

Minimum Age of House: 20 years

Availability: First come, first served



Homeowners who increase their home's curb appeal will be awarded a larger grant than those who make only interior or maintenance improvements. Find out more today! Visit the City's website for more information, or contact Kristin at 763-767-6517 or by email at kdegrande@coonrapidsmn.gov.



Loan Program Helps Coon Rapids Family

Melissa Washington's home needed quite a few repairs. The furnace was old, the windows were drafty and the siding needed to be replaced. She worried about how she would pay for all of the repairs. Then she heard about home loan programs through the City of Coon Rapids.

Washington says, "I wanted to check out these options because I planned to live in my home for many years. I knew I needed to make the repairs but I didn't have enough money to cover all of the costs. The loan program was well worth it! I'm so happy I looked into this program."

Washington used the Zero Interest Home Rehabilitation Deferred Loan, which uses federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. This program is designed to address the burden that low and moderate income families are dealing with as it relates to housing maintenance, deteriorating home conditions and energy use. Residents who meet income guidelines are eligible to receive up to \$24,999 to improve the overall quality of their homes.

Thanks to the loan program, Washington was able to get new windows, furnace, siding and aluminum trim, entry door, plumbing, electrical and hand railings. She says, "My home looks great! I'm very happy I took the time to research this program and I'm grateful it is available to homeowners."

Zero interest loan funds are available for low and moderate income households. No monthly payments are required and up to 50 percent of the loan is forgiven if you remain in your home for five years. To learn more about this program and other programs offered, contact the HousingResource™ Center at 651-486-7401 or visit www.gmhchousing.org.



Open to Business Program Provides Free Business Consultations

Exciting news! The Open to Business program is now being offered to anyone in Anoka County who is interested in starting a business or currently owns a business. Business Advisor Kathleen DuChene holds

office hours at the Anoka County Government Center and other locations around Anoka County, including at Coon Rapids City Hall on the third Tuesday of each month from 2:00—4:30 p.m. Entrepreneurs interested in this service can also schedule an appointment by calling Kathleen at 763-438-7315.

This service is perfect for those looking to:

- Open a business
- Discuss financing options
- Develop marketing strategies
- Understand the logistics of leasing or purchasing property
- And other business-related needs

More information about this program can be found at www.opentobusinessmn.org.



Mercy Hospital Adds New Birth Center

After completing a comprehensive review of the obstetrical services offered at Mercy and Unity hospitals, Allina Health has decided to combine the programs into one all-inclusive program at The Mother Baby Center at Mercy in Coon Rapids. The new center, a partnership between Allina Health and Children's Hospitals & Clinics of Minnesota, opened on July 27.



Financial Resources for Businesses

The City of Coon Rapids offers a variety of financing options for projects that help achieve its development goals. These resources are administered both by the City and outside resources, including the Central Minnesota Development Company (CMDC), which is authorized to provide Small Business Administration loans, as well as the City of Coon Rapids' commercial loan funds. For more information visit www.coonrapidsmn.gov or contact Mike Mulrooney at CMDC at 763-784-3337.



Other Business News

- Construction is expected to begin this fall on **River North, a new 167-unit senior apartment building** located adjacent to the Coon Rapids Ice Center at 109th Lane and Crooked Lake Boulevard. Construction is expected to be complete by late 2016. Leasing information is available at 763-762-4762 or RiverNorth-Apts.com.
- Permits were issued for a new **Taco Bell** restaurant at Hanson Boulevard and Gateway Drive.
- **Magnum Freight** on Evergreen Boulevard has completed work on a new 42,000 square foot freight terminal, 9,300 square foot office, and 14,000 square foot maintenance building.
- **Spiral Manufacturing** on Yellowpine Street has completed work on a 7,750 square foot addition. Spiral is a major manufacturer of high pressure pipes and fittings.
- **Super America** will be constructing a new gas station and convenience store at Egret and Coon Rapids Boulevard.
- **Just Between Friends** has opened at 10 Coon Rapids Boulevard.
- **Orthology Physical Wellness** opened a new location at 3183 Northdale Boulevard.
- **Three Sisters Snacks** has opened at 12065 Hanson Boulevard.
- **Title Boxing Club of Coon Rapids** recently opened at 12475 Riverdale Boulevard NW.
- **Carpet King** has moved to a new location at 13055 Riverdale Drive.





DUI Extra Patrol

You may have seen a new Coon Rapids police vehicle out on the roads. The new DUI patrol vehicle and dedicated full-time DUI patrol officer are part of a new initiative to keep Coon Rapids' roads safe. It is part of the Towards Zero Deaths initiative in Minnesota. The Coon Rapids Police Department received a federal grant to pay for an extra patrol officer, dedicated specifically to extra DUI patrol and a vehicle. The grant is in effect for four years. The DUI officer works on peak nights and times when people are often driving under the influence.



Night to Unite helps neighbors get to know each other and build police/community partnerships.

Thank you to everyone who participated in Night to Unite on August 4, 2015!



See you again August 2, 2016!

Car Seat Clinics

Did you know 4 out of 5 car seats are installed incorrectly?

Get tips from professionally trained car seat technicians from the Coon Rapids Police and Fire Departments at one of the following car seat clinics:

September 22

October 13

November 9

December 15

Clinics take place from 4-7 p.m. This free service is available by appointment only to Coon Rapids residents through Safe Kids Anoka County. Schedule an appointment by contacting safekids@coonrapidsmn.gov or call 763-767-4680, ext. 680.

Clinics take place at the Coon Rapids Police Department, 11155 Robinson Drive.

Beware of Scams

Recently, there have been many reports of fraudulent activities in Coon Rapids and in the metro area. There are many different scams which usually involve wiring money or buying gift cards and sending the numbers to someone. Never send anyone you don't know money. Several examples of recent scams are listed below.

Scammers, who appear to be working out of Nigeria, are manipulating real ads of homes for sale and changing the ad to appear as if it is a home for rent on Craigslist. Unsuspecting citizens are then filling out a rental application, getting "approved" and are then told to send money. The scammers say the keys will be in the mail, but the keys never arrive.

Also, there was a recent ad for an RV for sale on Craigslist. The criminals created their own fake ad from this original ad, and set up a fake ebay notice attached to it, which they said would act as a third party to protect the buyer and the seller. The victim wired the scammers money and never received the RV.

Citizens have also reported getting phone calls or emails from the "IRS" or the "Sheriff's Department." Neither of these government agencies will contact you by phone or email if you have an issue with your taxes or

if you have a warrant out for your arrest. Also, if someone calls to say your grandchild or other relative is in jail in a foreign country, it is likely not true. This scam is also used often to rob people out of money. Check with other family members before sending any money to anyone claiming to be a relative or calling on behalf of one.

Perhaps the scariest way scammers are taking money from people is by tricking them into giving remote access to their computer. Once the hackers are inside, they demand money to release the computer. Often, the first payment will not be enough and they will demand more. They claim to have access to all of your personal data and bank accounts once inside your computer. Never give out personal information over the phone, including passwords.

Any time that you are asked to send money to someone you don't know, assume it is a scam. If you are still in doubt, call 911 and ask for an officer to call you to help you make a determination. The following websites also provide helpful information about how to stay safe from scams:

www.scamwatch.gov.au
www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/fraud
www.bbb.org (click on scams)

Fire News



MDA Fill-the-Boot Event

THANK YOU to the community for helping firefighters raise \$25,924 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association! The "Fill-the-Boot" campaign, which took place June 29 – July 1 at the intersection of Northdale Boulevard and Main Street, was a huge success! The money raised helps more than 2,300 families in MN who are dealing with muscle disease.



Recreational Fires

A REMINDER:

You cannot burn leaves or other household debris in your recreational fire. Only clean, dry wood can be used. While recreational fires are allowed without a permit, they are subject to specific City regulations.

More information and guidelines regarding recreational fires can be found on the City's website at www.coonrapidsmn.gov.



NO BURNING LEAVES!

What You Need To Know About Smoke Alarms

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect your home's smoke alarms. This way, when one sounds, they all sound.
- Teach children the sound of the smoke alarm and to exit the home/building when it sounds.
- Place alarms on the ceiling four inches from the wall; alarms on the wall must be four to 12 inches below the ceiling.
- Smoke alarms should be tested monthly.
- Smoke alarm batteries should be changed at least once a year.
- All smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.
- Working smoke alarms cut your risk of dying in a residential fire by 50%.



Freeze Out Winter Fires

- Keep all doors and windows that could be used for an escape route clear of snow and ice.
- Keep all vents —fireplace, dryer, furnace and oven —clear of snow, ice and debris.
- Never use a blow torch to thaw frozen pipes.
- Use flashlights, not candles, if you lose power.
- Portable space heaters must be plugged directly into an outlet (not an extension cord) and placed at least three feet from anything that can burn such as bedding, paper, walls and even people.
- Turn off portable heaters when you leave a room or go to bed.
- Most home fires occur in the winter and peak in January.
- Each year in the United States, there is more than \$2 billion in property loss due to winter home fires.
- Last year in Minnesota, 39 percent of fire deaths occurred in October, November and December.



Keep windows clear of ice and snow!

Parkinson's Support Group

Thursday, October 8 at 1:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker Linda Tally with Allina Health. Topic of "Advance Care Planning and Palliative Care."

Thursday, November 12 at 1:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker Kathryn Gilbertson on "Non-Motor Symptoms of Parkinson's Disease."

Everyone Welcome. Coffee Provided.

Please RSVP by calling 763-767-6473.

For more questions, feel free to contact Support Group Facilitator Milo Hartmann 763-755-2175.

Super Senior Club Bazaar & Flea Market

Thursday, November 5

Coon Rapids Senior Center

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Crafts, raffles, bake sale, refreshments and more!

Proceeds from this event are donated to local charities.

Donations for the flea market are being accepted at the Senior Center after October 1.

Live 2 B Healthy Fitness Class

**Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
8:30-9:30 a.m.**

NOW ACCEPTS MOST
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD, MEDICA
AND HEALTH PARTNERS PLANS!

The Coon Rapids Senior Center is offering this fitness class that will help you improve flexibility and balance while increasing muscular endurance. Classes are \$35.00 per month, but there's no cost to "SilverSneakers" or "Silver and Fit" members. Other insurance plans might also cover the cost. Everyone's first session is free. Bring your insurance card to determine if you will get a discount in the future. No need to register in advance. Questions? Call Greg at 612-481-7274.

**Live2B
HEALTHY
SENIOR FITNESS**

E-Book Help

Did you know that you can get free eBooks from the Anoka County Library? They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at anokacountylibrary.org. Would you like to learn more? Schedule a free, one-to-one, thirty minute appointment and learn how to download free library eBooks! A representative from the Anoka County Library will meet with you individually at the Coon Rapids Senior Center and show you how it works with your device (iPads, iPhones, Androids and Kindles). Bring your device, your device ID and password and your library card and PIN (if you have one). To make your Tuesday appointment, call the Coon Rapids Senior Center at 763-767-6473.



Find your passion at the Coon Rapids Senior Center!

Visit www.coonrapidsmn.gov for more information.



Outstanding Senior Awards

Louise Pleimling and Roger Wolfgram won the Anoka County Outstanding Senior Awards at the Anoka County Fair on Wednesday, July 22. Louise was nominated by the Camilia Rose Care Center where she is a volunteer. She assists the residents, helps at special events and even helped train in the new volunteer coordinator. She also volunteers at the Coon Rapids Senior Center Gift Shop.

Roger was nominated by Coon Rapids Senior Services. He was recognized for his work on the Snowflake Days Committee since 1993 and for serving as its King since 2006. Along with his wife, Jeanne, he participates in dozens of activities each year such as parades, community service projects, and festival functions. The two also represented Anoka County on Senior Day at the Minnesota State Fair on Thursday, September 3, 2015.





Bunker Hills Golf Club

12800 Bunker Prairie Drive
Coon Rapids, MN 55448
763-755-4141

www.bunkerhillsgolf.com

golfTEC: 612-424-9251

Bar & Grill: 763-951-7277



The Bunker Hills Event Center is perfect for weddings, business events, golf tournaments, meetings and special events. Located in Coon Rapids on the Bunker Hills Golf Course, the Bunker Hills Event Center's captivating rooms, elegant décor and superb cuisine will make your event one to remember.

763-951-7276

www.BunkerHillsEventCenter.com

Practice Your Game at Bunker Hills!

While the course will be open until the snow flies, do not let the snow deter you from practicing your game at Bunker Hills Golf Club! golfTEC Bunker Hills offers private, tailored golf instruction for anyone looking to improve their game.



State-of-the-art golf simulators also offer a great place to practice in the winter...alone or with friends! Play Pebble Beach or one of 30 other courses. To learn more visit bunkerhillsgolf.com



Coon Rapids Ice Center

11000 Crooked Lake Blvd.

763-951-7222

www.coonrapidsicecenter.com

Watch our website or "like" our Facebook page for upcoming daytime skating opportunities for youth and adults!

Sign Up Now for Fall Skating

Fall skating lessons are about to begin at the Coon Rapids Ice Center. Classes are available for figure skaters and hockey players (adults too!) Classes run for 12 weeks and begin on Saturday, September 19 (10:35 – 11:35 a.m.) and Monday, September 21 (6:10 – 9:20 p.m.) Classes are 30 minutes in length with 30 minutes of practice time. For more information, including detailed course descriptions, visit our website.

Public Skating

Lace up your skates and enjoy the ice during one of our public skating sessions.

Fall & Winter Public Skating event times:

Wednesdays & Fridays
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sundays
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for students. Children ages 5 and under skate FREE with a paid admission. Skate rental and sharpening also available.



Special Events!

Take part in one of our special themed skating events coming up this fall and winter. Games, coloring contest and more!

Back to School Skate
September 4 (11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

Halloween Skate
October 30 (6:10 p.m. – 9:10 p.m.)

Fall Food-Shelf/Toys for Tots Skate
November 22 (5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)

Skate with Santa
December 13 (5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)

Sign up Now for Power Skating Sundays

Calling all hockey players! Develop your skating skills with the coaches at the Coon Rapids Ice Center. Classes are one hour in length and will be broken into two groups. Mites/Squirrels/U10 and Pee Wee/Bantam/U14. Must be in second grade or higher.

Class time: 11:40 a.m. – 12:40 p.m. Fall Session is 7 weeks (September 20, October 18 & 25, November 8 & 22 and December 6 & 20.)

Fee: \$84 for all 7 weeks or drop-in for \$15 per class

Skaters Win Awards

Coon Rapids Ice Center was well represented at the 2016 Minnesota Figure Skating Championships, held August 21-23 at Charles Schulz Highland Arena in St. Paul. There were just over 200 competitors from across the state of Minnesota in ten youth and six adult divisions. Seven skaters who train at the Coon Rapids Ice Center competed in a championship round. Most of these skaters will compete in the U.S. Regional Championships in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin October 8-12.

Adult Gold State Champion: Bianca Dickson

Adult Gold Silver medalist: Holly Olson

Junior Ladies Bronze medalist: Riley Shore

Juvenile Girls Pewter medalist: Lily Zieg

Juvenile Girls: McKenna Shoberg

Open Juvenile Ladies: Ashley Pugh

Preliminary Girls Pewter medalist: Alicia Fripp



Pictured from left to right: McKenna Shoberg, Holly Olson, Bianca Dickson, Riley Shore, Lily Zieg, Alicia Fripp (not pictured Ashley Pugh)

Children's Yoga Class (Ages 3-6)

Children will learn to move and use their bodies in a controlled way using different fun yoga poses such as Eagle, Lizard and Hawk. During class, children will have fun games, projects, art and music all intertwined with their yoga poses and stretches.

Session: Tuesdays October 13 – November 17

Time: 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Location: Coon Rapids Ice Center

Fee: \$45 for six week session or drop in for \$10

Instructor: Miriam



Morning Adult Gentle Yoga Class

This class will link movement to breath while building strength and increasing flexibility. This is an ideal class for those new to yoga as well as the experienced student.

Session: Tuesdays, October 13 - November 17

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Location: Coon Rapids Ice Center

Fee: \$45 for six week session or drop in for \$10

Instructor: Miriam

Evening Adult Gentle Yoga Class

This class will link movement to breath while building strength and increasing flexibility. This is an ideal class for those new to yoga as well as the experienced student.

Session: Wednesdays, October 14 – November 18

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Coon Rapids Ice Center

Fee: \$45 for six week session or drop in for \$10

Instructor: Angela

Registration form is available online at www.coonrapidsmn.gov (look for Parks & Recreation) Call 763-767-6513 or email rgunderson@coonrapidsmn.gov for more information.

Sports Associations

The following private non-profit organizations provide recreational and competitive sports opportunities for youth in Coon Rapids. For information visit each website.

Coon Rapids Athletic Association

(Football, Recreational Basketball, Softball and Lacrosse)

www.craakids.com

Coon Rapids Cardinal Little League

(Formerly National and Central Leagues)

www.eteamz.com/crcll

Coon Rapids/Andover American Little League

www.crallbaseball.org

Coon Rapids Baseball Association

(13-19 year old baseball)

www.coonrapidsbaseball.com

Coon Rapids Fastpitch Association

(8-18 year old girls fastpitch)

www.coonrapidsfastpitch.com

Coon Rapids Youth Hockey Association

www.coonrapidshockey.com

Coon Rapids Soccer Association

www.crsoccer.org

Coon Rapids Cardinal Basketball Club

(Traveling boys and girls program)

www.coonrapidshoops.org

Adult Boot Hockey League

Join this adult boot hockey league which will take place on Wednesday nights, on the refrigerated outdoor rink, at the Coon Rapids Ice Center. Teams consist of five players and a roster of up to ten. For more information or to register contact the Recreation Coordinator at 763-767-6513.

Session: Wednesdays, December 2 - February 17 (No Games Dec 30)

Time: Games at 8:00 p.m. or 9:00 p.m.

Location: Coon Rapids Ice Center

Fee: \$350.00 per team



Anoka-Hennepin Community Education

The City of Coon Rapids works in cooperation with Anoka-Hennepin Community Education to provide youth programming in the City.

You can find classes at:
www.anoka.k12.mn.us/communityeducation

"The Element" Teen Center

(grades 6-12)

2701 Northdale Blvd. (at Riverwind Park)

teencenter@coonrapidsmn.gov

763-767-6513



School Year Hours

(Sept 14 – June 3)

Tuesday & Thursday: 3-6 p.m.

Friday: 6-9 p.m.

Come socialize, play games, watch movies and have fun with kids your age in a safe, supervised environment. FREE! Concessions available for purchase.

Join our Facebook page for the latest updates and special announcements!



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Do you have leftover paint, cleaners or other chemicals you want to dispose of safely? Come to the Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event.

Tuesday, October 6

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Anoka County Fairgrounds (northeast corner)

3200 St. Francis Blvd, Anoka

Must enter from Ferry Street at sign for the county park.
No Charge!

Examples of what to bring:

- Leftover paint
 - Household cleaners
 - Fluorescent bulbs
 - Automotive fluids (Participants' fuel/oil containers will not be returned.)
 - Most products labeled Caution, Warning, Danger, or Poison
- Secure products so they don't tip over or leak.*

Examples of what NOT to bring:

- Ammunition or explosives
- Appliances
- Asbestos
- Batteries
- Electronics
- Garbage
- Medications
- Medical sharps (needles/syringes)
- Tires

A driver's license or other proof of county residence is required. This collection is free and open to residents of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties. Businesses, schools and other organizations may NOT bring waste to the collection.

For disposal information about wastes not accepted at the collection, call Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions at 763-323-5730. You can also visit www.AnokaCounty.us/recycle for more information.

What Is Organic Recycling?

or-gan-ic /ôr'ganik/

Of, relating to, or derived from living matter.

re-cy-cle /rē'sīk (ə)l/

Convert (waste) into reusable material.

ORGANIC RECYCLING

The process of collecting food waste and non-recyclable paper and converting them into reusable material. (Rich compost) Similar to backyard composting, organic recycling allows meat and dairy.

WHY?

Recycling your kitchen scraps, discarded leftovers, spoiled food along with some paper products in an organics program will reduce the waste you place at the curb, which will save you money and help the environment. Did you know the tax you pay on your trash bin in Minnesota is 9.5% for residential users and 17% for commercial customers? Did you know recycling is TAX FREE? Reducing the amount of trash you put out each week will allow you to decrease your container size and save you money! Adding organic recycling to your home routine will do just that!

HOW?

Coon Rapids residents have two options to begin organic recycling.

1. Coon Rapids Recycling Drop Off Center

The Coon Rapids Recycling Center accepts kitchen scraps, discarded leftovers, spoiled food and some paper products as part of its Organic Food Waste Recycling Program. Organic materials MUST be brought to the Recycling Center in the approved organic blue bags available at the Recycling Center (small fee applies for bags).

2. Walters Recycling and Refuse - curbside

Walters Recycling and Refuse recently started the Blue Bag Organics curbside program for residents who live in the city of Coon Rapids*. This program composts food waste and food-soiled paper.

The process is easy: Walters' customers discard food waste and food-soiled paper into special Blue Bag Organics BPI-certified bags. The blue bags are then placed in regular garbage carts for curb-side pickup.

Walters' customers can contact the company if they are interested in participating.

**You must be a residential customer of Walters Recycling and Refuse in order to participate in the pilot program.*

Watch a video about organics and how it works at www.coonrapidsmn.gov/398/Organic-Recycling



Garden waste, pumpkins and fruit that has fallen from trees can all be brought to the Coon Rapids Recycling Center's Organics program too!*

**Items must be bagged in the organic blue bags or brown paper bags.*



Coon Rapids Recycling Center

1831 – 111th Avenue, Coon Rapids, MN 55433

763-767-6485

Seasonal Hours

Please note the NEW change in Recycling Center hours beginning in October.

October-March: Tuesday - Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

April-September: Tuesday and Thursday 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sustainability Commission Opening

Do you have an interest in recycling and sustainability? Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity? Become a member of the Coon Rapids Sustainability Commission.

Fill out a commission application online at www.coonrapidsmn.gov.

Events

2015 Holiday Lighting Contest

Are you planning to decorate your home with lights for the holidays? If so, enter the Coon Rapids Arts Commission Holiday Lighting Contest! You could win one of several cash prizes available!

More information about the contest guidelines along with an official entry form will be posted on the City's website by the end of the day Friday, November 20. Judging by members of the Coon Rapids Arts Commission will take place in December. Winners will be notified by members of the commission and announced in the January 2016 Coon Rapids Connection newsletter.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Arts Commission, there are openings! Fill out a Commission Application online at www.coonrapidsmn.gov.



2016 Coon Rapids Performing Arts Series

The Coon Rapids Arts Commission is proud to host the annual "Dessert and Coffee Concert Series" beginning in early 2016. Come out and enjoy a great evening of entertainment along with fabulous dessert and coffee.

Mark your calendars for the tentative 2016 dates and performers

Thursday, January 21

Church of Cash
(Johnny Cash Tribute Band)

Thursday, February 11

Maurice Jacox
(Nat King Cole Tribute)

Thursday, March 10

Locklin Road (Celtic)

Thursday, April 14

The Bill & Tom Show (Variety)

All concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Coon Rapids Civic Center, 11155 Robinson Drive. More information including ticket prices will be printed in the winter Coon Rapids Connection newsletter and will be available online at www.coonrapidsmn.gov.

For more information contact Stephanie Lincoln at 763-767-6432 or email slincoln@coonrapidsmn.gov.



Fire Station Open House

Details on front page



Car Seat Clinics

Information on page 10



Senior Center Bazaar & Flea Market

Information on page 12

Service Directory

Police and Fire: 911

City Center:

763-755-2880

Assessing:

763-767-6446

Building Inspections:

763-767-6476

Bunker Hills Golf Club:

763-755-4141

CTN-Coon Rapids: (Cable TV Dept.)

763-767-6525

Civic Center:

763-767-6522

Property Maintenance:

763-767-6470

Coon Rapids Ice Center:

763-951-7222

Engineering Department:

763-767-6465

Fire Administration:

763-767-6429

Job Hotline:

763-767-6597

Planning and Zoning:

763-767-6430

Police Administration:

763-767-6481

Public Works:

763-767-6462

Senior Services:

763-767-6473

Utility Billing:

763-767-6438

Fax:

763-767-6491

General questions:

mail@coonrapidsmn.gov

Newsletter comments & information:

Stephanie Ring

Communications & Mktg Coordinator

763-767-6582

sring@coonrapidsmn.gov

This is the official newsletter of the City of Coon Rapids which is distributed to all homes and businesses in the city. This newsletter is printed on recycled paper containing at least 30% post-consumer paper fibers using soy-based ink. (Circulation 25,875)

